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COMMUNICATION

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

KINGS COLLEGE. LONDON, 14-1-14.

Dear Sir.—Mr. Winch has drawn my attention to an error which appears on p. 548 of my article On the Perceptive Types in the October number of your Journal. I should be much obliged if you would publish this correction.

In condensing the paper for publication, an alteration in the wording has made it appear as if Mr. Winch were not in favour of the strict mathematical treatment of psychological data. This is quite incorrect, as a matter of fact he is one of those who have always strenuously advocated the banishing, from experimental psychology, of its vague unqualified averages and percentages, etc.

The paragraph in question is worded as follows:

"The value of applying mathematical methods to experiments dealing with aesthetics is questioned by some workers in this field. However, if averages are employed, there should be some check on them before they are made the basis of any conclusions. Take *an example* from some fairly recent work. Winch bases his conclusions regarding the color preferences of school children, on averages which at first sight appear large but which on investigation fail to reach the required standard of significance. In other words they are less than three times their probable error."

The above italicised words are the source of the error. Mr. Winch's results were taken as *an example* of insufficiently qualified averages and not as *an example* of the work of those who object to mathematical methods.

Mr. Winch's results were chosen because they were the only averages known to me (in that branch of work) which were qualified by the insertion of the m.v. of each. The criticism intended was that the treatment of his data might have been carried further, and I very much regret that such a misconception should have been created.

Yours faithfully.

E. J. G. BRADFORD.

To the Editor, *The American Journal of Psychology*.